



Join Us for Free, Fun, Programs!

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

August, 2013

REGISTRATION

All refuge run programs are FREE but space may be limited and advanced registration is required for all programs, unless otherwise indicated. Please call (978) 465-5753. Registration is not complete until you receive confirmation from a staff member. Please note that outdoor programs may be cancelled if there is inclement weather and also insufficient registration. Visit us on the web for more information: <http://parkerriver.fws.gov> or call Refuge Headquarters. The refuge visitor center is located at 6 Plum Island Turnpike, Newburyport, MA.

Please note: If a program requires pre-registration, your registration is not confirmed unless and until you receive a phone call or voice mail message from a member of the refuge staff.

"Behind the Scenes" Refuge Tour

Held on the following days: Saturdays, August 3rd, 17th, 24th, & 31st at 9:30 am; Sundays, August 4th, 11th, & 25th at 1:00 pm. Tours last approximately 2 hours.

Join a refuge ranger for a behind the scenes tour of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge. Tour will be conducted via refuge van, with several brief "drive by" stops along the way. The tour will present an "up close and personal" look at the refuge through the multiple lenses of the cultural history of Plum Island and the Great Marsh, native wildlife and their habitats, and the role of refuge management in the conservation of these precious natural resources. Participants may be driven along areas on the refuge otherwise closed to the public. This guided two hour program is most appropriate for older teens and adults. Binoculars and/or a camera are recommended, but not required. Meet the ranger in the lobby of the Headquarters visitor center. Each session is limited to 8 participants; no more than 4 individuals per sign-up. Again, this is a vehicle -based tour, with limited stops on the Refuge.

Advance registration is required for this program, as enrollment is limited. Be advised that individual tours may be subject to cancellation. *Please note: Those who call and leave messages after hours, your registration is not confirmed until having received a confirmation call back from a refuge staff member. Please call 978-465-5753; to register for this program.

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Photographic Society of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

Next Meeting: Saturday, August 10th at 1:30 pm

A new nature and wildlife photography club has formed at Parker River National Wildlife Refuge! Anyone with an interest in nature, wildlife, and photography is invited to attend our next general meeting, which will take place in the refuge visitor center auditorium in Newburyport on Saturday, August 10th at 1:30 pm. The featured speaker at the August meeting will be globe-trotting nature photographer Dave Burns, who leads photographic expeditions to such faraway places as Africa! Check out Dave's web site to view some of his outstanding work: <http://www.daveburnsphoto.com/>.

The Photographic Society welcomes one and all – from beginners to professionals. The club meets every month, generally on the second Saturday afternoon. Club activities include slide shows (of members' work), intra-club mentoring and training, photo shoots, on-line photo sharing, and involvement in the refuge's various photography-related programs, events, and outreach activities. **Pre-registration is NOT required to attend this program.** Please call 978-465-5753 for more information about the Photographic Society.

Tide Pool Discoveries

Monday, August 12th at 9:00 am; Friday, August 16th at noon; Monday, August 26th at 9:00 am; Tuesday, August 27th at 9:30 am; Friday, August 30th at noon

For generations children have enjoyed exploring tide pools and discovering the fascinating plants and animals that live in this realm between the tides. A refuge ranger will guide this hands-on program. Appropriate for children age 5 – 10. Each session is limited to 15 children. Each session is 90 minutes long, allowing time for travel to and from the beach. Meet the ranger at the visitor contact station at lot 1. **Note: Parent/guardian must remain with his/her child for the entire duration of this program. Preregistration is required for this program.**

Exploring the Refuge by Kayak

Monday, August 12th at 1:30 pm; Monday, August 19th at 8:30 am; Wednesday, August 21st at 10:00 am; Friday, August 23rd at 11:30 am

There is no better way to see and experience the refuge's salt marsh than from the cockpit of your own kayak! Join a couple of refuge rangers for a three hour meander through the marsh and learn about some of its fascinating natural and cultural history. Program participants should have kayaking experience and need to provide their own kayak, paddle, and personal flotation device. Participant boats must be a minimum of 12 feet in length and have onboard flotation. It is recommended that participants provide their own insect repellent, sunscreen, water, snack food, and wear clothing appropriate for the weather. Participants under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Meet the rangers at the refuge's boat ramp, opposite Lot 1, fifteen minutes prior to the program start time. Enrollment limited to 12 participants. **Preregistration required.**

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Navigating Nature By Satellite! – A Very Special Refuge Event

Saturday, August 17th from 11:00 am to 3:00pm at the refuge visitor center

Stop by the refuge visitor center on this particular Saturday to learn how a GPS (geographic positioning system) unit can be used to find your way in the outdoors. While here, you'll also have an opportunity to learn about an extremely popular, GPS-based activity called geocaching, which is sort of a high-tech form of treasure hunting. After learning the basics of GPS navigation, try out your newfound skills on the refuge's GeoQuest route (and learn about this national wildlife refuge in the process!). Lots of other cool things will be happening at the visitor center that day, as well. If you happen to have a handheld GPS unit of your own, please bring it with you to the event. (Also keep in mind that many of today's smart phones have GPS capability.) This event is being coordinated by the refuge's Master Naturalist volunteers. The event is FREE, appropriate for families, and does NOT require preregistration. Hope to see you on the 17th!